

## Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 OES-05

INT-05 GSA-02 ERDA-07 /067 W  
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R 101609Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5657

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1825

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJECT: JOINT DUTCH/NORWEGIAN PLANS FOR MINING OF  
MAGNESIUM SALTS

1. IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH NORWEGIAN NORSK HYDRO,  
BILLITON DELFSTOFFEN B.V., A SUBSIDIARY OF ROYAL DUTCH/  
SHELL GROUP, PLANS TO MINE AND PROCESS MAGNESIUM AND  
POTASSIUM SALTS IN NORTHERN PART OF NETHERLANDS.

2. AS TEST DRILLINGS BY BILLITON INDICATED TECHNICAL  
FEASIBILITY OF EXPLOITATION, MINING CONCESSIONS IN AN AREA  
OF 36,638 HECTARES IN SOUTHEAST OF GRONINGEN PROVINCE AND  
NORTHEAST OF DRENTE PROVINCE HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR.

3. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN BILLITON AND NORSK HYDRO  
FOR INVESTMENT OF 70 TO 80 MILLION GUILDERS (1 DOLLAR EQUALS  
2.42DFL) IN MAGNESIUM OXIDE PLANT BY BILLITON, AND 1 MILLION  
GUILDERS IN A REFINERY FOR PURIFICATION OF MAGNESIUM AND  
POTASSIUM CHLORIDE BY NORSK HYDRO.

4. YEARLY PROCESSING CAPACITY OF SALT SOLUTION (15 TO 20 PER-  
CENT MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE) WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION TONS  
BY BILLITON PLANT, AND 700,000 TONS BY NORSK HYDRO REFINERY,  
WHILE PRODUCTION OF BILLITON PLANT IS ESTIMATED AT 100,000  
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TONS MAGNESIUM OXIDE PER YEAR.

5. EARLIER STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY BOTH BILLITON AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS REVEAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITH FURTHER PROCESSING OF MAGNESIUM OXIDE TO MAGNESIUM IN NETHERLANDS BECAUSE OF HEAVY AMOUNTS OF ENERGY INVOLVED. MAGNESIUM SALTS WILL THEREFORE BE SHIPPED TO NORWAY AS RAW MATERIAL FOR NORSK HYDRO'S PLANTS.

6. DEPENDENT ON FURTHER TEST DRILLINGS AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDIES THIS YEAR, DEFINITE DECISION BY BILLITON WILL BE TAKEN IN COURSE OF 1976, WHILE PRODUCTION OF PLANTS IS EXPECTED TO START IN 1978.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MAGNESIUM, JOINT VENTURES, MINING CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 APR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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